

Message to the Congress Transmitting the Report on the Trade Agreements Program

March 27, 1996

To the Congress of the United States:

As required by section 163 of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (19 U.S.C. 2213), I transmit herewith the 1996 Trade Policy Agenda and

1995 Annual Report on the Trade Agreements Program.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

The White House,
March 27, 1996.

Remarks Announcing the “One Strike and You’re Out” Initiative in Public Housing

March 28, 1996

Thank you. You know, when we were walking over here, Leora said she was nervous. I don’t think she told the truth. *[Laughter]* I’m just glad she’s not on the ballot this year. *[Laughter]* Didn’t she do a great? I want to thank Leora Robinson and Lieutenant Ramirez. They both spoke so well and so passionately, and they spoke the truth. They spoke on behalf of the mayors, the police chiefs, the housing administrators, and the residents who are here and people all across America. And I thank them.

I thank the Members of Congress who are here; and Mr. McGaw, the head of the ATF; and my friends the mayors who are here, and especially—I know the mayor of Toledo is a proud mayor today, hearing these two fine people speak. I thank the Vice President for the work that he has done in our whole community empowerment initiative, trying to give people all over America control of their lives again. And I want to echo what the Vice President said; it is literally an inspiration for me to have the opportunity to work with Henry Cisneros, a man who believes that all problems can be solved and goes about proving it day-in and day-out. I thank you, sir, for what you have done.

In my State of the Union Address I challenged local housing authorities and tenant associations to adopt this “one strike and you’re out” policy to restore the rule of law to public housing, to simply say, “If you mess up your community, you have to turn in your key. If you insist on abusing or intimidating or hurting

other people, you’ll have to live somewhere else.”

It seems so simple, it’s hard to imagine how we ever went so wrong. Public housing was created with a simple purpose in mind, to provide good, inexpensive homes for good, hard-working people, so they could care for their children, hold down their jobs, and eventually save enough, if they chose, to move into homes of their own. Public housing has never been a right; it has always been a privilege. And it is amazing how far some people in some places have strayed from that original mission.

I think it is worth saying today again, even though you have just seen evidence of it, most people who live in public housing work. Most people who live in public housing are doing their very best to be good parents. Most people who live in public housing deserve a better deal than they have gotten in the past from the kinds of things that have gone on. And we are determined to help the people all across this country change that so that everybody will be able to tell the story that Leora and Lieutenant Ramirez told today.

The only people who deserve to live in public housing are those who live responsibly there and those who honor the rule of law. We’ve worked hard to protect public housing residents with Operation Safe Home and public housing drug elimination programs. We’ve made 6,800 arrests, seized hundreds of weapons, confiscated \$3 million worth of illegal drugs. And coupled with our other anticrime initiatives, we’re help-